



# Planning and Development Department Update

**DATE:** August 26, 2011  
**TO:** Mayor Setti D. Warren  
**FROM:** Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development   
**RE:** Friday Report  
**CC:** Board of Aldermen  
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

<b>Monday</b> <b>8/29/11</b>	
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>8/30/11</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>8/31/11</b>	
<b>Thursday</b> <b>9/1/11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Farm Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 222</li><li>• Newtonville Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., <b>cancelled</b></li></ul>

- **Planning & Development Department Welcomes Community Development Manager:** This week the Planning and Development Department welcomed Anne Marie Belrose to its staff. Anne Marie, a Jamaica Plain resident, will be managing the Community Development division. She will be responsible for policy and program development, as well as financial management and reporting. Most recently, she served as Director of Finance & Compliance and Interim Executive Director for the Brockton Redevelopment Authority. Prior to her tenure in Brockton, Anne Marie served as Associate Director for Policy Development at the Department of Housing & Community Development, and also worked as a consultant. Anne Marie has a BA in English and Anthropology/Sociology from Adelphi University, and a JD and MS in economics from Suffolk University. **Anne Marie can be reached at 617.796.1130 or [abelrose@newtonma.gov](mailto:abelrose@newtonma.gov).**  

- **Newton Farm Commission:** The Farm Commission will meet on Thursday, September **1st** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 222. The following items are on the agenda: Updates on farm operations; Review of minutes from the May, June, August meeting. **Contact Alexandra Ananth at 617.796.1121 or [aananth@newtonma.gov](mailto:aananth@newtonma.gov).**
- **The Station at Riverside:** The Planning Department recently provided comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Station at Riverside to the Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). Those comments and other project information can be found on the City's website at [www.newtonma.gov/Planning/Riverside/Riverside.htm](http://www.newtonma.gov/Planning/Riverside/Riverside.htm). Additional information about the environmental review can be found on the MEPA website at [www.env.state.ma.us/mepa/mpis.aspx](http://www.env.state.ma.us/mepa/mpis.aspx) under project code EEA 14590. **Contact Candace Havens at 617-796-1137 or [chavens@newtonma.gov](mailto:chavens@newtonma.gov).**
- **Newtonville Historic District Commission:** The September meeting of the Newtonville Historic District Commission has been **cancelled**. The next filing deadline is September 21<sup>st</sup> and the next scheduled meeting is **Thursday, October 6th**. **Contact Katy Holmes at 617.796.1143 or [kholmes@newtonma.gov](mailto:kholmes@newtonma.gov).**
- **Next Step Living** is offering Newton residents and landlords a **FREE** turnkey approach to assessing your home from top to bottom to identify where energy efficiency improvements can be made. You will then receive a personalized list of recommendations to make energy savings changes in your home along with information

about rebates and incentives to help you save on the recommended improvements. **Contact Next Step Living** to find out about eligibility requirements at **866.867.8729**.

- **SAVE THE DATE - FAR Informational Meeting:** The Planning and Development Department will hold an informational meeting on **Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 a.m., location to be announced, to review and answer questions about the recently adopted new floor area ratio (FAR) regulations for one- and two-family homes in residential zoning districts, which will **take effect October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Prior to the meeting we encourage you to visit our website [www.newtonma.gov/planning/FAR.php](http://www.newtonma.gov/planning/FAR.php) where you'll find FAQ's, FAR calculator and more helpful information. The Inspectional Services and Planning Departments are asking those submitting applications for building permits and special permits to please use the worksheet on the website (also available at the ISD counter at City Hall) to calculate FAR under both current and new regulations. The data may help applicants decide whether they wish to wait until October 15<sup>th</sup> to submit an application and will also be used to monitor implementation of the new FAR regulations. **For more information please view the FAQ's from the web link above, email us at [FAR@newtonma.gov](mailto:FAR@newtonma.gov) or call 617.796.1120.**
- **Newton Preservation Awards Seeking Nominations:** This year marks the 4<sup>th</sup> year in which the Newton Historical Commission and Historic Newton are presenting **Newton Preservation Awards**. If you know of a project or person deserving recognition for historic preservation, please complete a nomination form, found on the Historic Newton website at <http://www.newtonma.gov/jackson/news/preservation-awards.asp> along with other information. The deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**.

- **Zipcar in Newton:** Zipcar, the Cambridge-based car-sharing company that enables members to rent a car by the hour as an alternative to car ownership, recently expanded into Newton Centre. Zipcar members may currently reserve the Honda Insight Hybrid (\$7.75/hour) or the Mazda 3 (\$9.75/hour) that are parked in designated spaces in the Langley Road ("triangle") parking lot. Zipcar pays the City to park in these spaces while providing a valuable and sustainable transportation option to help residents, visitors, and employees reach their destinations. Zipcar has already reported heavy usage of the cars. If the success continues, this one-year trial may be expanded to other areas of Newton.  
**For more information, visit [www.zipcar.com](http://www.zipcar.com).**



- **Got LEED?** The City of Newton is interested in tracking LEED-certified construction within the City. If you know of a building that has received or is intending to receive this distinction please let us know! **Contact Alexandra Ananth at 617.796.1121 or [aananth@newtonma.gov](mailto:aananth@newtonma.gov).**
- **Department's Weekly Report Going Green:** Over the years our Planning Department's Weekly Report (Friday Report) has continued to grow in circulation. While we're excited for people to read our information, we're hoping to move to a more green distribution. Besides saving paper and postage, it also allows you to receive the information in a more timely way. For those who are not currently receiving it via email and would like to receive it electronically, please let us know by sending an email to Norine Silton at [nsilton@newtonma.gov](mailto:nsilton@newtonma.gov). Be sure to put "Going Green" in your subject line. Thank you!